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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/047,188	01/15/2002	Brian C. Barnes	2000.056900/TT4089	5070
23720	7590	04/02/2009	EXAMINER	
WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON			TRUONG, THANHNGA B	
10333 RICHMOND, SUITE 1100			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
HOUSTON, TX 77042			2435	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/047,188	BARNES ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	THANHNGA B. TRUONG	2435	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2008.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 8-11 and 17-20 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3,12-14 and 16 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 4-7 and 15 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the communication filed on November 17, 2008. Claims 1-20 are pending. At this time, claims 1-7 and 12-16 are still rejected.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed November 17, 2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-7 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Covey (US 4,926,476), and further in view of Couleur et al (US 4,173,783) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Agarwal (US 5,822,749) and Motoyama et al (US 5,578,090 B1).

The fact that Examiner may not have specifically responded to any particular arguments made by Applicant and Applicant's Representative, should not be construed as indicating Examiner's agreement therewith.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3, 12-14, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Covey (US 4,926,476), in view of Motoyama et al (US 5,578,090 B1), and further in view of Agarwal (US 5,822,749).

a. *Referring to claim 1:*

i. Covey teaches a method:

(1) executing a software object (**e.g. trusted/untrusted software processes, instruction/program execution, column 3, lines 1-17; column 5, lines 9-11; column 6, lines 4-10 of Covey**);

(2) establishing a security level for said software object (**column 5, lines 9-19 and column 6, lines 4-10 of Covey**);

(3) performing a multi-table input/output (I/O) space access using at least one of said security levels (**column 5, lines 11-19 and column 6, lines 1-44 of Covey**); and

(4) executing a function of said object, wherein executing said function comprising accessing at least a portion of said input/output space (**column 5, lines 9-19 and column 6, 7-10 of Covey**).

ii. Although Covey teaches memory access with security level, but merely discloses establishing a security level for said software object, Covey is silent on the capability of showing the multi-table input/output space. On the other hand, Motoyama discloses the process of accessing software object in the abstract and as well as in **column 4, lines 23-29 of Motoyama**. Furthermore, Agarwal discloses the multi-table input/output space in **column 46, lines 13-36 of Agarwal**.

iii. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to:

(1) have modified the invention of Covey with the teaching of Motogama and Agarwal for improving computer security (**column 1, line 6 of Covey**).

iv. The ordinary skilled person would have been motivated to:

(1) have modified the invention of Covey with the teaching of Motogama and Agarwal to maintain the proper labeling of data at multiple sensitivity levels and proper control of access based upon these labels, is said to be “multi-level secure” or “MLS” (**column 2, lines 60-63 of Covey**).

b. Referring to claim 2:

i. Covey further teaches:

(1) wherein executing a software object further comprises using a processor to process software code of said software object (**column 6, lines 4-10 of Covey**).

c. Referring to claim 3:

i. The combination of teaching between Covey, Motogama, and Agarwal teaches the claimed subject matter. Covey and Agarwal further teach:

(1) wherein establishing a security level for said software object further comprises assigning a security level relating to an I/O space access of at least a portion of a memory (**column 5, lines 11-19 and column 6, lines 1-44 of Covey**).

ii. Although Covey teaches memory access with security level, but merely discloses establishing a security level for said software object, Covey is silent on the capability of showing the multi-table input/output space. On the other hand, Motoyama discloses the process of accessing software object in the abstract and as well as in **column 4, lines 23-29 of Motoyama**. Furthermore, Agarwal discloses the multi-table input/output space in **column 46, lines 13-36 of Agarwal**.

iii. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to:

(1) have modified the invention of Covey with the teaching of Motogama and Agarwal for improving computer security (**column 1, line 6 of Covey**).

iv. The ordinary skilled person would have been motivated to:

(1) have modified the invention of Covey with the teaching of Motogama and Agarwal to maintain the proper labeling of data at multiple sensitivity levels and proper control of access based upon these labels, is said to be “multi-level secure” or “MLS” (**column 2, lines 60-63 of Covey**).

d. Referring to claims 12-13:

i. These claims consist an apparatus to implement claim 1, thus they are rejected with the same rationale applied against claim 1 above.

ii. Covey further teaches a processor coupled to a bus (**see Figure 1, CPU of Covey**); means for coupling at least one software object to said processor (**column 6, lines 4-10 of Covey**).

iii. Agarwal further teaches I/O device (**column 9, line 56 of Agarwal**).

e. Referring to claim 14:

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i. Covey further teaches:

(1) wherein said processor comprises at least one microprocessor (**column 9, lines 58-59 of Covey**).

f. Referring to claim 16:

i. Covey further teaches:

(1) wherein said I/O device comprises a memory that comprises at least one of a magnetic tape memory, a flash memory, a random access memory, and a memory residing on a semiconductor chip (**column 6, lines 1-67 of Covey**).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 8-11 and 17-20 are allowed

6. Claims 4 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5-7 are depended to claim 4, thus they are objected with the same rationale applied against claim 4 above.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanhnga (Tanya) Truong whose telephone number is 571-272-3858.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached at 571-272-3859. The fax and phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

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/Thanhnga B. Truong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2435

TBT

March 26, 2009